

REMARKS

Applicants have considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are directed to patentable subject matter as set forth below.

Claims 18 and 19 are objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicants have canceled claim 18. Claim 19 has been amended to clarify the grammar and range being claimed. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The outstanding rejections are as follows:

- (1) Claims 16-26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite based on certain phrasing set forth at pages 2-3 of the outstanding action; and
- (2) Claims 16-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over EP 1 101 867 A1 (Graff), which is equivalent to U.S. Patent No. 6,461,720 B1, or over FR 2 773 564 A1 (Roussel), which is equivalent to U.S. Patent No. 6,524,683.

The Examiner states that the rejection of claims 16-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been maintained for further clarification on the measurement of the bridge or bridges which is one basis of the new §112 rejection. Applicants understand this to mean that once clarification is provided that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 will be overcome based on applicants' remarks set forth in the amendment filed September 17, 2008. Accordingly, applicants resubmit their remarks as set forth in the prior amendment as to the §103 rejection and respond to the §112 rejection as set forth below.

As to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, applicants will address the matters in the order raised by the Examiner. The claims have been amended to clarify what applicants are claiming.

In claim 16, the wording has been amended to clarify that the array is of the alveoles. The word "assuming" has been amended to read "having" to provide a clearly positive recitation. The definition of the bridge provided has been amended to clarify the wording.

Claim 23 has been amended to clarify the wording to avoid the question of antecedent basis. Claim 24 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

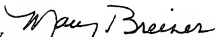
Accordingly, the issues raised with respect to the §112 rejection have been addressed. It is submitted that the claims are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the §112 rejection is requested.

Further, applicants submit that the claims are patentable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103 as set forth above based on applicants' earlier arguments set forth in the amendment filed September 17, 2008 and resubmitted here and based on the clarification of the claim language. Withdrawal of the §103 rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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